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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SANTIAGO • CHILE

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHILE

U.S. EMBASSY SANTIAGO NEWSLETTER



Internal Revenue Service
United States Department of the Treasury

It's That Time of the Year Again...

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) developed a new brochure for U.S. citizens living abroad. The brochure serves as a wonderful resource and helpful tool in assisting U.S. taxpayers in *locating tax information* useful in the preparation of their returns and resolving account related problems. The brochure will explain how to email questions to IRS and file your tax returns electronically. It will also provide tax tips to international taxpayers. It has useful phone numbers, including the **International Taxpayer Assistance**: (215) 516-2000 (note: not "toll-free") – 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (EST) M-F. The brochure is on the Internet at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>. Hard copies of the brochure are also available at the Embassy.

In addition, please take note of new regulations giving taxpayers greater control over their personal tax return information. New regulations became effective *January 1, 2009*. These regulations limit tax return preparers' use and disclosure of information obtained during the return preparation process to activities directly related to the preparation of the return.

Frequently Asked Questions about these new regulations are available at <http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=188398,00.html> on www.irs.gov.

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AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES UNIT (ACS)

Address: **Avenida Andrés Bello 2800,
Las Condes, Santiago**

☎ (56-2) 330-3000

📠 (56-2) 330-3005

Email: SantiagoAmcit@state.gov (general inquiries) and SantiagoFBU@state.gov (social security, benefits)

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-11:30 am. Closed U.S. and Chilean holidays and the first Friday of each month.



LOSS AND RESTORATION OF CHILEAN NATIONALITY FOR CHILEAN BORN U.S. CITIZENS

If you were born in Chile and lost your Chilean nationality when you were naturalized as a citizen of the United States of America, it is now possible for you to recover your Chilean nationality by virtue of the modification to Article 11 of Chilean Law No. 20.050, which became effective on August 26, 2005. The modification to Article 11 stipulates that Chilean nationality is lost by voluntary renunciation before the competent Chilean authority, only after having acquired the nationality of a foreign country. Therefore, if you became a citizen of the United States by naturalization and your Chilean birth inscription bears the annotation of Loss of Chilean Nationality, as was required with the former Chilean Constitution, you may request that this annotation be eliminated from your birth record to have your Chilean nationality restored.



If your present Chilean I.D. Card states that you are a citizen of the United States and it is about to expire, it is likely that when you approach the Chilean Civil Registry Office to renew it, you will be instructed to visit the office of the *Departamento de Extranjería* nearest to your home to file either an application to have the annotation of Loss of Nationality eliminated from your birth inscription, or formally renounce your Chilean citizenship.

If you choose to have your Chilean nationality restored, this act will not affect in any way your U.S. citizenship. Once your Chilean nationality is restored, you will need to be in possession of a Chilean passport when entering or departing Chile. For more information on this subject and to download the application forms, please see the following website http://www.extranjeria.gov.cl/perdida_nacionalid.html.

TRAVELING WITH MINORS FROM CHILE

Regardless of your nationality, minor children under the age of 18 departing Chile are required to have parental consent to leave the country.

If your child is traveling with both parents, no written consent is required. However, the Chilean Immigration may ask for the child's birth certificate in order to prove that you are the parents. Birth certificates should be originals. If the birth certificate was not issued in Chile, it should first be legalized by the Chilean consulate in the U.S. or in the country in which the child was born.

If the child is traveling with one parent, written consent from the other parent is required. To issue the consent, the parent must go to a Chilean notary public and produce a notarized consent form. At the airport, the parent traveling with the minor should present the birth certificate and notarized consent form from the absent parent.

If the parent who is not traveling with the child is not in Chile, he or she should go to the Chilean consulate to issue the consent form. If the form is issued by a non-Chilean notary, it still has to be legalized by a Chilean consul and translated into Spanish. Parental consent signed before a Chilean notary is valid for 90 days only. Parental consent signed before a Chilean Consul is good for only 180 days. Don't be caught traveling with an expired parental consent.

Minors traveling alone should have written consent from both parents as well as the original birth certificate. If a parent has sole custody, he or she will have to present a court document. If this document has not been issued in Chile, it also has to be legalized by a Chilean Consul and translated into Spanish.

If one parent is deceased, both the original birth certificate of the child as well as the parent's death certificate should be presented to the Chilean Immigration. Please also bear in mind that if your child is also a Chilean citizen, the child should depart the country with a Chilean passport. If one or both parents are Chilean citizens the child may have acquired Chilean citizenship despite the fact he or she was born overseas.



If you have a question about Chilean entry and exit control laws for minors, please contact the Chilean Immigration authorities or closest Embassy or Consulate of Chile.

IS CHILE FREE FROM PICK-POCKETING?

Although Chile seems to be a fairly safe country, American citizens visiting and living here should be extra careful as they would in any other large city around the world. Over the past three months, the American Citizen Services Unit has seen a dramatic increase in lost and stolen passport cases, issuing 3-4 emergency passports a day on average. Santiago, Valparaiso, and Vina del Mar are common sites for pick-pocketing, back-pack, purse or camera snatching. In Santiago, visitors and residents should be extra cautious in places such as the bus terminal, Plaza de Armas, Mercado Central, Plaza Italia, and major hotels and restaurants in Las Condes, Vitacura, Providencia, Suecia, and Bellavista. In Valparaiso and Vina del Mar, U.S. citizens should be very careful in places like the port and crowded tourists areas. If you become a victim of crime and need to contact the police (*Carabineros*), their number is 133. We recommend that you make a **copy** of the bio page of your passport and carry it with you at all times. Leave your passport, Chilean tourist card, and other valuables in a safe place in the hotel or at home. Be safe, be smart.



NOTE: UPCOMING CHANGES TO U.S. TRAVEL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Department of State celebrated ***“Passport Day in the USA”*** on March 28. The purpose of the event was to inform the public about the upcoming changes to U.S. travel document requirements and to provide passport information. The event also sought to encourage U.S. citizens without a valid passport or passport card to apply for travel them so that they can be ready when needed.

The Department of State, U.S. Embassies overseas, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Postal Service, and non-postal Passport Acceptance Facilities, are working together to ensure that citizens are aware of the new requirements ***effective June 1.***

Most U.S. citizens already know that since January 23, 2007 everyone traveling in and out of the United States ***by air*** has needed a passport. On ***June 1, 2009***, U.S. citizens will have to present a passport, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter the United States from *Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda* at land borders and sea ports of entry. Additional information on travel requirements is available at www.getyouhome.gov.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

Q: *Do I need an appointment to submit a passport application?*

ACS: **No**, you do not need an appointment. Stop by the consular section any time between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM, Monday-Friday. Please note that we are closed on holidays and the first Friday of each month.

Q: *Do I need an appointment to submit an application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad?*

ACS: **Yes**, you need an appointment. Please request your appointment by emailing to SantiagoAmcit@state.gov.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

SANTIAGOAMCIT@STATE.GOV



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TRAVEL REMINDER:

If your spouse, family member, or friend is traveling to the United States using passport from a Visa Waiver Program (VWP) country, he or she is now required to register electronically online before traveling. This electronic registration process and other information about visa waiver travel can be found at the following web site:
<http://cbp.gov/esta>.

In addition to official holidays, the ACS unit will be closed on Apr 3, May 8, Jun 5, Jul 10, Aug 7, Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6 and Dec 4.

facebook

The Embassy now has its own Facebook page. It can be accessed through the Facebook link on the Embassy web site: www.usembassy. Our Facebook has general ACS information, important tips for students abroad, lists Embassy events, and much more. Become a U.S. Embassy Santiago Facebook fan!

TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

Next time you visit travel.state.gov, you'll notice a new button in the upper right corner called "Tax info for Americans Overseas." Click on it and you'll be taken to a brand spanking new IRS website, chock full of goodies for the overseas American taxpayer!

REGISTER WITH YOUR EMBASSY!

During any kind of emergency, consular officers will make every attempt to reach you and help you ...**if they know where you are!** We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for U.S. citizens register with their Embassies while residing or traveling overseas. Registering at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate makes your whereabouts known to us, so that we can help you in the event of an emergency. It also gives us the ability to disseminate public announcements, travel alerts, and newsletters. You can access the registration website at www.usembassy.cl ("U.S. Citizens Services") or directly at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. We invite you to register yourself and your family. If you are registered with the Embassy, we ask you to keep your records up-to-date. You can update your information online or send us an email at SantiagoAmcit@state.gov and let us know that your address/telephone number(s) changed. We want to be able to help **YOU** if you need us!



U.S. Food and Drug Administration



RECALLS, MARKET WITHDRAWALS, SAFETY ALERTS!

<http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>



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